GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
EUROPEAN HUB BY AI
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked Air India (AI) to establish a European hub to launch scissor operations to North America ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) the names of other Indian private airlines having similar hubs in other countries; and

(d) the manner in which the Indian national carriers will be able to meet the growing challenge from their competitors?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Air India is evaluating various options for scissor operations through one or more points in Europe while operating to USA/Canada.

(c): Jet Airways have recently commenced flights to Newarkvia Brussels. They propose to have more flights to other destinations via Brussels.

(d): Air India and Indian Airlines have embarked on a major modernisation programme under which 111 new aircraft have been ordered from M/s. Boeing and M/s. Airbus. After merger of Air India and Indian Airlines, the new entity will emerge as a much stronger player with an integrated international and domestic footprint. The merger will enable optimal utilization of resources and Network Integration which would result in reduction of operating cost and improvement in revenue.